



September 6, 2016

TO: Members of the Water Pollution Control Advisory Council

FROM: Amy Steinmetz

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2016

SUBJECT: Triennial Review and Proposed Amendments to Water Quality Standards

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Environmental Review (BER) held a 60-day comment period and subsequent public hearing inviting comments on Montana's water quality standards. Water quality standards consist of Montana's administrative rules for mixing zones, surface water quality standards, nondegradation, ground water quality standards, and a compliance schedule authorizing provision for permits, as well as Department Circulars DEQ-7 and DEQ-12A and 12B, which house numeric water quality criteria for Montana's surface and ground water. The public comment period closed June 3, 2016. DEQ received comments that pertained to Montana's water quality standards from four parties. We have revised DEQ-7 and several water quality standards rules in response to both public comment and recommendations from within DEQ.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE COUNCIL:

DEQ requests comments from the council on the proposed water quality standards amendments, and requests a recommendation from the council to proceed to the BER on September 30, 2016 to request initiation of rulemaking on the proposed amendments.

Please contact me with any questions (Amy Steinmetz, DEQ – Metcalf Building P.O Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620; 406.444.0371, asteinmetz@mt.gov)